

## REMARKS

The present submission is in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed September 25, 2001. In the September 25, 2001 restriction requirement, the Examiner indicated that there were three groups of claims:

Group I = claims 1-3, drawn to extrusion of parisons.

Group II = claims 4-6, drawn to extrusion of parisons.

Group III = claims 7-16, drawn to hollow bodies having multiple ribs on their inner walls.

### Amendment to the Claims

The present amendment cancels all original claims, and adds claims 17-33, all of which are drawn to devices having “hollow bodies provided with multiple ribs on their inner walls”.

Independent claim 17 is directed to a “barrel assembly having a thermoplastic blow molded open-top hollow barrel body” which includes a barrel bottom connected to an annular sidewall, the annular sidewall having a substantially smooth outer surface and an inner surface provided with vertically-extending ribs, a clamping ring and a cover lid. An example of this is seen in, e.g., Figs. 12-15. Dependent claims 18-25 further define the invention of claim 17.

Independent claim 26 is directed to a “substantially rectangular canister” having first and second pairs of sidewalls connected at rounded corners area, the first and second pairs of sidewalls each being provided with a substantially smooth outer surface and an inner surface provided with a plurality of spaced-apart vertically oriented ribs. Dependent claim 27 specifically recites that the ribs are absent from the rounded corner areas; and dependent claim 28 further claims the handle member. Such a canister is seen in e.g., Figs. 8 and 9.

Independent claim 29 is directed to a “substantially rectangular canister” having first and second pairs of sidewalls connected at rounded corner areas, the rounded corner areas each being provided with a substantially smooth outer surface and an inner surface provided with a plurality of spaced-apart vertically oriented ribs. Dependent claim 30 specifically

recites that the ribs are absent from central regions of the first and second pairs of sidewalls and dependent claim 31 further claims the handle member. Such a canister is seen in e.g., Figs. 10 and 11.

Independent claim 32 is directed to a “closed bung-type barrel” which has a bottom connected to an annular sidewall, the annular sidewall having a substantially smooth outer surface and an inner surface provided with vertically-extending ribs, and a top provided with first and second lateral bung fittings. Such a device is seen in Figs. 16 & 17.

Independent claim 33 is directed to a “pallet container having a hollow blow-molded thermoplastic inner body” which has first and second pairs of parallel sidewalls connected at corner areas, each of the pairs of sidewalls having vertically-extending ribs, and a canister top provided with a central opening. Such a device is seen in Fig. 18.

In the pending claims, it is noted that a “substantially smooth outer surface” refers to an outer surface devoid of vertical ribs and indentations complementary to the vertical ribs formed on the inner surface(s).

#### **Amendment to the Title**

The title has been amended to reflect the current claims.

#### **Priority Document**

On page 1 of the September 25, 2001 office action, the Examiner noted that she was unable to locate a certified copy of priority document no. DE 29809489.4, in the application file. It is noted that the present application was filed under 35 USC 371. The priority document would have been filed in international applications no. PCT?EP99/03723; the priority document itself is referred to on the front page of WIPO publication no. 99/61219, which corresponds to the international application. Should the Examiner be unable to locate any indication that the priority document was filed in the international application, applicants will submit a replacement copy.

An examination on the merits of claims 17-33 is requested.

A separate fee transmittal sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 26, 2001

Nanda. Alpati  
Nanda K. Alpati Reg. No. 30,893  
Marcia H. Sundeen Reg. No. 30,893  
**PENNIE & EDMONDS LLP**  
1667 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 496-4400